IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) An apparatus for handling a tubular, comprising:

a housing for receiving the tubular;

a plurality of gripping members disposed in the housing for gripping the tubular; and

a plurality of torque distributors disposed in the housing for engaging the plurality of gripping members.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of torque distributors prevents the plurality of gripping members from twisting as torque is applied to the tubular.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the plurality of torque distributors comprises a pin having an arcuate surface on one side and a flat surface on another.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a chamber for maintaining a respective gripping member.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a load plate disposed between the plurality of gripping members and the housing.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein a contact surface between the load plate and the plurality of gripping members comprises an arcuate surface.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of gripping members comprises a piston and cylinder assembly.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the piston is attached to the housing and the cylinder is radially movable relative to the piston.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising an engagement member disposed on the piston and cylinder assembly.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the engagement member is selected from the group consisting of a jaw, a die, and combinations thereof.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of torque distributors prevents the plurality of gripping members from twisting.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of torque distributors are disposed parallel to an axis of the piston and cylinder assembly.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein a bending force acting on the piston and cylinder assembly is distributed across the plurality of torque distributors.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein six torque distributors guides each gripping member.

15. (Original) An apparatus for handling a tubular having a first portion and a second portion, comprising:

a frame;

a first gripping apparatus disposed on the frame;

a second gripping apparatus disposed on the frame, wherein each of the gripping apparatus includes:

a housing for receiving the tubular;

a plurality of gripping members disposed in the housing for gripping the tubular; and

a plurality of torque distributors disposed in the housing for distributing forces acting on the plurality of gripping members.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first gripping apparatus has torquing capability.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the second gripping apparatus includes one or more torquing members for rotating the housing.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the one or more torquing members comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of torque distributors prevents the plurality of gripping members from twisting.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of torque distributors has an arcuate surface on one side and a flat surface on another.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a load plate disposed between the plurality of gripping members and the housing.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein a contact surface between the load plate and the plurality of gripping members comprises an arcuate surface.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of gripping members comprises a piston and cylinder assembly.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a tubular engagement member disposed on the piston and cylinder assembly.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the engagement member is selected from the group consisting of a jaw, a die, and combinations thereof.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the plurality of torque distributors prevents the plurality of gripping members from twisting.

27. (Original) An apparatus for handling a tubular, comprising:

a housing for receiving the tubular; and

a plurality of gripping members disposed in the housing for gripping the tubular; wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted to the size of the tubular.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted simultaneously.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein each of the plurality of gripping members comprises a shaft threadedly connected to a jaw body.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of gripping members comprises a shaft threadedly connected to a jaw body.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the jaw body comprises a gear profile disposed on an outer surface.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted by engaging the gear profile.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising an indexing assembly for aligning one or more tubular engagement members.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the indexing assembly comprises an indexing key for mating with an indexing slot on the gripping member.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted using a turn ring.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising one or more rollers to facilitate rotation of the turn ring.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the housing and the plurality of gripping members are disposed in a rotary.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a transport device.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising a locking mechanism to prevent movement of the gripping members during transport.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted mechanically.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted using a gear ring.

42. (Withdrawn) A method for handling a tubular, comprising:
providing a gripping apparatus having a plurality of gripping members;
adjusting the plurality of gripping members to accommodate the tubular;
gripping the tubular; and
applying torque to rotate the tubular.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein adjusting the plurality of gripping members comprises adjusting the plurality of gripping members simultaneously.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted hydraulically.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted mechanically.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the gripping members comprise a shaft and a jaw body, wherein the jaw body is rotatable relative to the shaft.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted by rotating the jaw body relative to the shaft.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the jaw bodies of the plurality of gripping members are rotated using a turn ring.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, further comprising orienting the plurality of gripping members using an indexing system.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein the indexing system comprises an indexing key and an indexing slot formed on the plurality of gripping members.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein two indexing slots are formed at opposite sides of the plurality of gripping member.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adjusted at 180 degree increments.

53. (Withdrawn) A suspension unit for retaining a spinner to connect tubulars, comprising:

one or more levers for coupling to the suspension unit to the spinner, wherein the spinner is allowed to move freely to align the tubulars during makeup.

54. (Withdrawn) The suspension unit of claim 53, wherein the suspension unit is adapted equalize the reaction torque transferred from the spinner.

55. (Withdrawn) The suspension unit of claim 53, further comprising a vertical lever for compensating for a weight of the spinner.

56. (Withdrawn) The suspension unit of claim 53, further comprising a load indicator for measuring a weight of the spinner.

57. (Withdrawn) The suspension unit of claim 53 further comprising an extension member for accommodating a change in length during make up.